

Volume 2, Issue 11 - Women Veterans Informer

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Ms. Veteran America 2015, Army Captain, Kerri Turner!

The Ms. Veteran America competition highlights more than the strength, courage, and sacrifice of our nations' military women, but also reminds us that these women are Mothers, Daughters, Sisters and Wives.

Ms. Veteran America is also a role model, teaching and empowering young women and girls to support, inspire and lift-up one another.

Proceeds from this event provides housing for homeless women Veterans and their children. Women Veterans are currently the fastest growing homeless population in America.

Ms. Veteran America's competition is not based on appearance or age, but the collective scores received from a combination of candidate interviews, military history, community and veteran advocacy. Judges will consider talent, grace, poise, confidence and personality when selecting the new Ms. Veteran America. The Ms. Veteran America competition encompasses women from all five military service branches.

This year's winner Captain Kerri Turner, joined the US Army in 2006. As a Captain, she serves as an instructor for the Washington Army National Guard. She has deployed to the Middle East and served during the Oso Mudslide.

Captain Turner has raised more than \$2,000 to benefit Final Salute Inc., an organization that provides safe and suitable housing for homeless women veterans and their children.

To donate or learn more about the Ms. Veteran America competition, visit: <http://www.msveteranamerica.org/>



Ms. Veteran America, Kerri Turner



The winners from left to right,
Ms Veteran America: Kerri Turner, Army,
1st Runner Up: Andrea Waterbury, Army,
2nd Runner Up: Rachel Engler, Navy.

All photos courtesy of Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/MsVeteranAmericaWBU>

I'm One: I'm a Veteran."

Veterans Administration - www.va.gov/WOMENVET/

In September 2015, VA's Center for Women Veterans and the VA Women's Health Group launched a new campaign "I'm One: I'm a Veteran." The "I'm One" campaign focuses on developing identity and respect for women Veterans. This campaign expands outreach to women Veterans who often feel "invisible" and not acknowledged or respected for their service and also hopes to encourage more women to self-identify with their Veteran status and to access the programs and services which they've earned.

The VA's **Spotlight series** will highlight women Veterans of different eras as we honor all women who have volunteered in military service to our country. On the website you will find brief descriptions of women's contributions to the defense of the nation throughout history. Commencing in September 2015 and culminating with Women's History Month in March 2016, the Center for Women Veterans will spotlight resilient women Veterans throughout our Nation's history.

To visit the site: <http://www.va.gov/WOMENVET/>

One of the first spotlights was in October - World War II

Mrs. Elizabeth Bridget "Betty Wall" Strohfus audaciously served her nation during WWII as a Women Air Force Service Pilot (W.A.S.P.). She served from 1943 until it disbanded in December 1944. Piloting eight different aircraft including the B-17, B-26, P-39, and her favorite the AT-6, she flew anti-aircraft training missions against US Army ground and bomber forces, towed aerial targets, and even instructed male cadets in the skill of instrument flight. Her critical efforts not only prepared and trained soldiers and airmen for war, but also freed the male pilots to remain in combat.

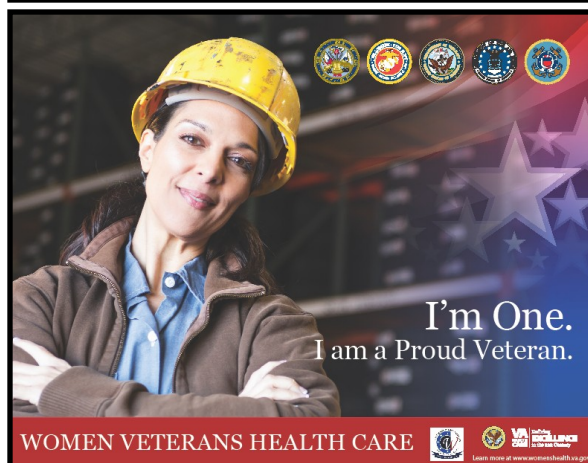


Liz was born in Faribault, Minnesota on November 15, 1919, number five of six children. Shortly after high school graduation, a member of the local Sky Club first introduced her to flight. After an exhilarating flight in a Piper Cub, she was hooked. Liz volunteered at the Club, completing odd jobs for a chance to fly with the members. When one of the 15 members of the all-male Sky Club enlisted in the Army Air Corps, she was asked to join. Borrowing \$100 from the local bank using her bicycle as collateral, she paid the dues and began flight lessons. When the World War started, she also joined and became active in the Civil Air Patrol.

As one of only 1,800 women accepted out of 25,000 applicants, out of whom only 1074 graduated, Betty received her wings in the first class of 1944, the ninth overall. Betty volunteered to fly pursuit aircraft and was stationed at Las Vegas Army Airfield and was assigned to Gunnery Training. There she towed targets behind a B-26 for fighter target practice, dove at bombers in pursuit aircraft and at infantry in the AT-6 for gunnery and anti-aircraft target practice. She was also qualified for missions in the P-39.

Later she returned to Las Vegas and became the first woman at Las Vegas Army Air Field (now Nellis air Force Base) to teach instrument flight to male cadets. The men, as always, were quite shocked to find out their instructor was a woman.

Full story can be found here: <http://www.va.gov/womenvet/generations/spotlight.asp>



The Army's Newest Army Ranger

Luis Martinez - October 12, 2015

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/mother-woman-graduate-army-ranger-school/story?id=34429827>

Major Lisa Jaster, a 37-year-old mother of two, has become the third woman to successfully complete the elite Army Ranger School. She will be among the 88 soldiers to earn the Ranger tab at a graduation ceremony on Friday at Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Bob Purtiman, a spokesman for Fort Benning, where the training is held, confirmed the accomplishment to ABC News.

In her civilian life, the reservist works as an engineer with Shell Oil in Houston.

Major Jaster will join her fellow West Point graduates Captain Kristen Griest, 26, and First lieutenant Shaye Haver, 25, as active duty soldiers who graduated from an earlier session of Ranger School on August 21, 2015

The three were among 19 women that began the course in April as part of what was supposed to be a one-time opportunity for women to participate in the Army's research about how women would be integrated into all combat units. Army Ranger School is a 62-day course that pushes candidates to their mental and physical limits. Officers and enlisted soldiers strive to earn the Ranger tab, which is the first step in qualifying to serve in the Army's elite special operations unit, the 75th Ranger Regiment.

"Ranger School is the Army's premier combat leadership course, teaching Ranger students how to overcome fatigue, hunger, and stress to lead Soldiers during small unit combat operations," read a statement from the military announcing Griest and Haver's successful completion of the course.

The course "pushes Ranger students to their mental and physical limits by forcing them to operate on minimal food and sleep," said the statement.

Griest's and Haver's graduation, Army Secretary John McHugh announced that Army Ranger School would be open to candidates of all genders.

The four military services and U.S. Special Operations Command have provided the Joint Staff with their recommendations as to which combat jobs should remain off-limits to women. Defense officials said that only the Marine Corps made a recommendation to continue to exclude women from combat infantry jobs.

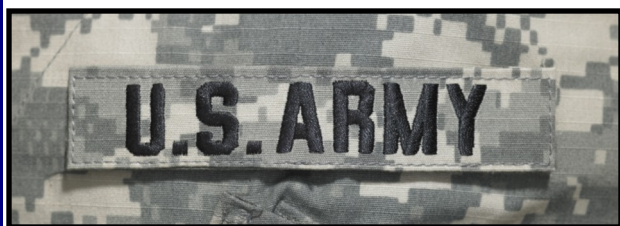
The recommendations are currently being reviewed by the Joint Staff and will be forwarded to Defense Secretary Ashton Carter who has until the end of the year to decide whether to agree to the exclusions or open up all combat jobs to women. - Luis Martinez



The Army wants more female recruiters

By Tom Vanden Brook, USA Today - October 14, 2015

<http://www.militarytimes.com/story/military/2015/10/14/army-wants-more-female-recruiters/73932088/>



The Army needs more female recruiters over the next several years as it gears up for the end of the ban on women serving in tens of thousands of combat-related jobs, according to a top recruiting official.

Major Gen. Jeffrey Snow, in an Oct. 4 memo to the top Army personnel officer, has requested an annual boost in the percentage of women recruiters by 1 percent per year until 2018 "to improve the recruitment of females for Army service."

Women, Snow said, are 23 percent better at recruiting women than men. "Increasing the number of females on recruiting duty will improve the effectiveness of recruiting women," he wrote. - Tom Vanden

Strictly for Veterans

Reno's annual Veterans Day Parade

November 11, 2015.

Starting at 11:00 a.m.

Honoring our veterans with a parade to say "Thank you for your service." The parade marches through the heart of downtown Reno and honors those who have sacrificed to protect our country.

The parade starts on Court and Virginia Street and travels to 5th and Virginia Street, through the heart of downtown Reno.

Show your support and watch the parade.



For other deals and details for Free Veterans Day Meals check out:

<http://themilitarywallet.com/veterans-day-free-meals-and-discounts/>

<https://www.facebook.com/VeteransDayFreeMeals>

The Sun Valley General Improvement District is holding its *6th Annual Veterans Breakfast* Saturday, November 7, 2015 from 9:00 am until 11:00 am at the Sun Valley Neighborhood Center located at Sun Valley Community Park, 115 W. 6th Ave., Sun Valley, NV.

Please join us as we pay tribute to veterans and active military for their service with a short ceremony followed by a FREE pancake breakfast courtesy of Washoe County Senior Services.



VETERANS & ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY



THANK YOU

YOU'VE DONE SO MUCH FOR OUR COUNTRY.

***** HAVE A MEAL ON US. *****

Available from open to close on November 11, 2015, at participating Applebee's only. Dine in from limited menu only.

Beverage and gratuity not included. Veterans and active duty military simply show proof of military service.

Proof of service includes: U.S. Uniformed Services ID Card, U.S. Uniformed Services Retired ID Card, current Leave and Earnings Statement (LES), veterans organization card (i.e., American Legion, VFW), photograph of yourself in uniform, wearing uniform, DD214 and citation or commendation.



Strictly for Veterans

YOU'RE INVITED TO A
VETERAN'S DAY
FAMILY BARBECUE
CELEBRATION
 HOSTED BY **FORGOTTENNOTGONE.ORG**

TICKETS \$22 (Help support our Veterans)
LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE

\$22 Our goal is to feed 222 veterans, families and proud supporters. The event is to raise awareness for the 22 Veterans that are committing suicide each day as well as to raise funds and community assistance for the Forgotten Not Gone Veteran Healing and Wellness Center.

ENTRY Support@ForgottenNotGone.Org

WEDNESDAY NOV. 11, 2015, 2-6 PM
3355 CLAYTON ST #15 NORTH LAS VEGAS

FOOD ♥ DRINK ♥ MUSIC ♥ GAMES ♥ PRIZES
TRIKE DEMOS ~ KID/FAMILY GAMES ~ GIANT SLIDE ~ RAFFLE

RSVP (702) 706-5777 ♥ TEXT 22VETS TO 50555

 
URBAN ICE ORGANICS **POLAR SHADES**

Career Corner

Las Vegas: Veterans, Family & Friends

LVBNM 400 Jobs for 400 Vets: A Veterans Day Celebration

Suncoast Hotel and Casino, 9090 Alta Dr, Grand Ballroom

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

10 AM – 2 PM, Veterans only between 10 AM and 11 AM (must show Military ID or DD 214)

A special presentation to salute our Veterans of Clark County from the Veterans Tribute Career & Technical Academy

Color Guard will take place at 11:15 AM. Watch the video at <https://youtu.be/RkC6TWN5Zkwd>

or visit <http://www.pjproductionlive.com/LVBNM>.

Indian Springs/Creech Air Force Base: Employers & anyone with a valid military ID

Airmen & Family Readiness Center/Creech Job Fair

Creech Air Force Base, Guardian Dining Hall, Voodoo Road, Bldg 1210

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

10 AM – 1 PM

Job seekers must have valid Military ID.

Bring your resume and dress to impress (military uniforms are OK).

North Las Vegas/Nellis Air Force Base: Employers & anyone with a valid military ID

Employment Assistance Event: Job Fair

Nellis Air Force Base, 5871 Fitzgerald Blvd

Thursday, November 5, 2015

11 AM – 2 PM

Bring your resume, dress to impress (military uniforms OK during duty hours).

Reno: Veterans, Employers & Support Agencies

Truckee Meadows Community College Veteran's Job and Resource Fair

V. James Eardley Student Center, Red Mountain Building, 7000 Dandini Blvd.

Friday, November 6, 2015

11:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Free campus parking.

Las Vegas: Veterans, Spouses and General Public

2nd Annual Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Career Fair

Hosted by the Sheriff's Multi-Cultural Recruitment Councils

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Headquarters, 400 South Martin L King Blvd Bldg. B

Saturday, November 7, 2015

10 AM – 2 PM

There will be Information booths for the positions of Police Officer, Corrections Officer, Crime Scene Investigator, Forensic Lab, Evidence Vault, Law Enforcement Support Technician, Information Technology, Human Resources, Accounting, LVMPD Logistics, Dispatch-Communications, LVMPD Volunteers, PSR and Explorers. Crime Prevention information will also be available.

This service is provided by Veteran Ready: Building Veteran-Strong Communities.

Subscribe to receive this by email at www.veteranready.com and click the EVENTS tab

or on Facebook@VeteranReadyNV or Twitter @VeteranReady.

Events are FREE and open to current members of the Guard/Reserves, Veterans, and current military spouses unless otherwise noted.

**Veterans Day Virtual Career Fair**

November 10, 2015

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

To register, use this link: <https://vr.veterancareerfairs.com/event/vr/login>



Convoy of Hope



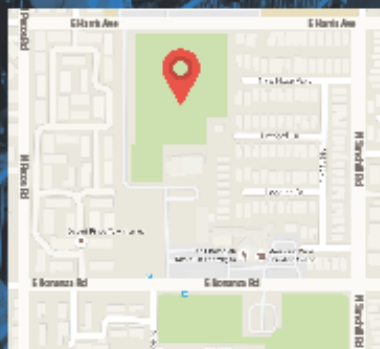
FREE

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 21, 2015 | 10:00AM**

THE CHAMPION CENTER OF LAS VEGAS
3900 E. BONANZA ROAD | LAS VEGAS, NV 89110

SERVICES INCLUDE:

GROCERIES
KIDS ZONE
HAIRCUTS
HEALTH SERVICES
PRAYER
JOB & CAREER SERVICES
FAMILY PORTRAITS
COMMUNITY SERVICES
FLU SHOTS
THANKSGIVING DINNER
WHOLE TURKEYS
VETERANS SERVICES



3900 E. BONANZA ROAD
LAS VEGAS, NV 89110



WHILE SUPPLIES LAST | NO I.D. REQUIRED | RAIN OR SHINE
702-452-1300 **hopelasvegas.org**

Veteran Resources

The VCS Patriot Store is offering a 20% discounts, including a Veterans Day Sale event.

Only on November 10, 2015.

The VCS is closed on Veterans Day, November 11, 2015.

For additional information visit:
<http://www.vacanteen.va.gov/docs/2015/VeteransDaySale.pdf>



To connect with Nevada Department Veterans Services:

 **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/NevadaWomenVeterans>

 **Twitter:** https://twitter.com/NDVS_WVC

 **Google+:** <http://tinyurl.com/NDVSgpage>

 **Website:** <http://www.veterans.nv.gov/>

 **Instagram:** [ndvs.wvc](#)

 **Pinterest:** <https://www.pinterest.com/NVWVC/>

 **Email:** stevensn@veterans.nv.gov

For Help:

Nevada Department of Veterans Services

1 (866) 630-VETS
 1 (866) 630-8387

Department of Veterans Affairs
 1 (800) 827-1000

VA Suicide Prevention Hotline

1 (800) 273-TALK
 1 (800) 273-8255

Wreaths Across America

Their mission is to, Remember, Honor, and Teach. WAA coordinates wreath laying ceremonies in Northern and Southern Nevada. They also organize of events including international veteran's tributes and ceremonies.

The program is dependent on the generosity and donations made by individual wreaths sponsors, corporate and volunteer donors.

To Donate or to Learn More visit: <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/>

The next Wreaths Across America ceremony is on Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at both Northern and Southern locations. The public is welcome to attend and assist with placing the wreaths following the ceremony.

Northern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery
 14 Veterans Way Fernley, NV 89408

Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery
 1900 Buchanan Boulevard, Boulder City, NV 89005



In Honor of Veterans



2015 Veterans Day Ceremony

Nevada State Veterans Home
100 Veterans Memorial Drive, Boulder City, Nevada 89005

Wednesday, November 11, 2015 at 1:30 p.m.

Recognition of Veterans Home Residents, Recognition of Veterans, Recognition of Blue Star Mothers
Recognition of Gold Star Parents, Recognition of SNVMC Advisory Committee,
Volunteer Group and Veterans Home Staff & Volunteers

Recognition of NDVS Personnel & Veterans Services and Commission Members

Special Musical Performance

Nevada Opera Theater Chorus, Eileen Hayes, Director

Performing "This is My Country", "God Bless the USA" and "The Armed Forces Medley"

Closing Comments: William "Bill" Baumann, DAV National Department, VAVS Representative

"God Bless America" Performed by Phil Esser

Retiring of Colors

711th Celts Post SAMS Pipes & Drums
DAV Black Mountain Chapter 12 Color Guard

Benediction

Carolyn J. Walker, Past Commander DAVA Unit 12

Immediately following the ceremony the Boulder City Veteran Pilots Group will perform a flyover.

November 11, 2015 - 11am to 12pm

The State of Nevada welcomes you to the



LAS VEGAS
VETERANS
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
MEMORIAL
A NATIONAL TRIBUTE

Event Location

Grant Sawyer Building
555 E. Washington Blvd
Las Vegas, Nevada

Guest Speakers / Remarks

-Governor Brian Sandoval
-Mr. Scott Tiano
-Mr. Alan Schrimpf
-Mr. Douwe Blumberg



Artist Rendition of the Las Vegas Veterans Memorial

The memorial will serve as a reminder to all that we will forever honor the heroism and spirit of those who have and will serve in our nation's military.

Once constructed the memorial will be located at the Grant Sawyer State Building, just north of downtown Las Vegas.

The memorial will feature 18 larger-than-life statues spanning our nation's history from the Revolutionary War to today's Global War on Terror.

For donation opportunities, please contact:

(702) 858-5886 or

<http://lasvegasesveteransmemorial.org>



For more information contact:

Nevada Department of Veterans Services at:

775-688-1653



Necole Stevens

Women Veterans
Program Coordinator
Nevada Department
of Veterans Services

**Southern Nevada
Healthcare System
North Las Vegas
VA Medical Center**

**6900 N Pecos Rd
North Las Vegas,
Nevada 89086**

**Phone: 702.791.9000
ext 15518**

**E-mail:
stevensn@veterans.nv.gov**

Nevada Department of
Veteran Services General
Information (866) 630-8387

Visit www.veterans.nv.gov
for information concerning;
Nevada State
Veterans Home
Southern and Northern
Nevada Veteran
Memorial Cemeteries
Veterans Rural Outreach
"ROVER" Calendar



**"Serving America's
Heroes"**

Honoring Women Veterans

At the Nevada Department of Veterans Services, we're committed to delivering quality services to all Nevada veterans, and these pages will educate you – a woman veteran who proudly defended our freedom – about benefits and resources.



Women have served the cause of freedom in every war and every generation since the Revolution. Those we honor number some 1.8 million, including nearly 24,000 women veterans currently residing in Nevada. Today, more than 25 percent of our military strength worldwide is women, and women serve in almost every capacity in the armed forces, including in combat zones on land, at sea and in the skies. More than 177,000 women from across the country have served as fighter pilots, medics, military police and in other roles since the start of the Global War on Terror.

It's all too common for women veterans to pack away their uniforms and memories upon return to civilian life, never to discuss their experiences again. Many women who honorably served don't even realize they're veterans – or realize their eligibility for benefits. Through these pages, we acknowledge your service and offer several resources to help you understand your status and what it means. By working together, we will achieve success in establishing a network to further communication and women veterans outreach.

Vision

Nevadans across the state understand and celebrate the legacy of America's servicewomen and **all** Nevada women veterans understand and have access to benefits to which they are eligible.

Mission

To provide women veteran benefit and activity information; resolve women veteran problems or refer veterans to NDVS service officers and other beneficial service providers for assistance; and to develop programs and activities that ensure Nevada women veterans understand, and are able to obtain, any aid or benefit to which they may be eligible.

Nominate a Woman Vet for Veteran of the Month

To read the Veteran of the Month Guidelines
and access submission forms please go to:

<http://www.veterans.nv.gov/page/veteran-of-the-month-program>

Submit Pictures and Articles

To submit articles and pictures for publication in the
Women Veterans Informer please email the Women Veterans Coordinator at:

StevensN@veterans.nv.gov